

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT		
SUBJECT	V.M. Molotov Iron Works in Trinec	DATE DISTR.	13 September 1955	25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The V.M. Molotov Iron Works in Trinec produces all iron and steel products from pig iron to rolled steel. No tubes and no sheets are manufactured. Some armor plate is made on Ministry of Defense order; it is believed that some of this is up to 10-inch thickness. Some of the main products are rails, wire rods and reinforcing rods. 25X1
2. There are 9 or 10 blast furnaces, of which two were installed two or three years ago. These are of a higher capacity than any others in the country. They were built with Soviet technical assistance. There are both Bessemer and Siemens-Martin furnaces, but the latter are more numerous. There are two blooming mills and several rolling mills for heavy sections and rails. One or two mills have been installed since the war, but it is not known of which type. The mills are convertible, but they rarely switch from one type of activity to another because the process is considered uneconomical.
3. Three shifts are worked. The number of workers employed is not known.
4. These works are the biggest producers of rolled steel material in Czechoslovakia. The total output is not known. Maximum capacity is believed to have been reached about two years ago and to have been maintained at the level then achieved.
5. It is intended to install a plant for the cool control and hardening of ends of rails. Sales to certain Western countries are limited because of lack of this equipment.
6. Products are both for domestic consumption and for export.
7. There is a serious lack of skilled workers. There have been very many changes in the planning department and among the engineering staff, which has naturally led to decreased efficiency. There is a discrepancy between the amount of steel ingots which can be rolled and the capacity of the finishing facilities.

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